

secret was in his operation, an deeply laid and so extensive was his plot, so incidentally had he corrupted public opinion, that the rights of the Mexican States and their constitution were overthrown, and centralism, another name for monarchy in disguise, established almost without a struggle. Against this new-fangled monarchy, Texas is now contending. What republicanism in this country does not inspire success in that Spartan Band, which in Texas is determined to resist the encroachments of power at all hazards?

Martin Van Buren has instigated a similar plan of operations, which, unless soon defeated, must end in centralism here. His organs are incessantly interfering in the domestic concerns of the states, as witness the Globe and Hartford Times. He has adopted a system of espionage, and every public officer, every post master, acts as a spy upon the people. He has called to his aid a political rascal, a set of office-holding Janissaries, who are shamelessly and constantly using the government patronage to control the elections. He is moving a fatal blow at the independence of the Senate, the only representative of the states in Congress. He has organized a party, which for the sake of fraud, entitles itself the democratic republican party, but whose object evidently is to increase and fortify the influence of the Federal Government, at the expense of the states, and at this moment his partisans in Congress are opposing Mr. Calhoun's bill to curtail the patronage of the Executive. Why is it, that no man can hold office under the General Government, unless he believe as the administration does, and will exert himself in favor of the Administration? Why is it, that the Treasury Banks are expected, if not required, to second the designs of the Administration? Why is it, that the Government presses are silent on the subject of the rights of the states and of the people? Why is it, that the members of the pseudo democratic party, living in sections of country whose interests are widely different, can be made to act in perfect harmony and concert to use the same modes of reasoning, to push for precisely the same objects, and even to think alike? We cannot shut our eyes against the conclusions, that all the effort, all this management, this corruption tend rapidly to centralism, to increase Executive power, and paralyze the influence of the states. Of all the evils the republicans of '93 dreaded that as the worst which could befall this republic. Now that the evil is impending, let them rally in opposition to centralism and in defence of those principles which they ever believed vital to our institutions.

FROM THE (WILMINGTON) AMERICAN.
To the Editor of the American & Gazette.

Sir,—I wish through the medium of your paper to ask the Senior Editor of the Free Press a few plain questions.

Sir,—Does not the course your paper has taken for the last three or four months prove most conclusively that you had made up your mind to go over to Van Buren long before the call was made for the late convention. And that no other candidate could have been brought before the convention which would have been acceptable to you? In proof of this I would ask if the Free Press has not for the last three months contained more Van Burenism (at least so far as the quality of matter is concerned in favor of that immediate personage) than any other paper in this State? How do these facts comport with your assertion that you and your adherents "would have felt bound to adhere to the nomination of any member of the Antimasonic party for President?" In your paper of the 1st inst. you ask, "who were the advocates of Martin Van Buren's nomination?" and then you proceed to answer, "Calvin Blodgett, Martin Flint, John S. Pettibone and E. D. Barber." Now I would ask, did Mr. Flint advocate the nomination of Martin Van Buren either in the convention or out of it? If you will answer this question in the affirmative I can bring more witnesses to prove that he did not, than you have received "Democratic" letters during the past week. Again, when you called on the supporters of Van Buren in the convention to withdraw and hold a meeting by themselves at Cotterill's, did Martin Flint obey that call, did he not rather continue with the majority of the Convention during the whole sitting, and did he not also use his influence to prevent you and your party from seceding and nominating a separate ticket? And is not the story about Gen. Flint's placing the name of Van Buren before a certain number of the convention and saying he should vote it a mere hoaxing. Have you not (until within the last year) and has not the Antimasonic Party uniformly supported all the leading principles of National Policy which have been supported by those who are now denominated Whigs. And is not very surprising that they can be so very obstinate and unreasonable as not to abandon their former principles and go with you for Van Buren? Again, When the Antimasonic Party has held a convention and nominated their own candidates entirely distinct from and independent of any other Party. Is it not a little singular that they should be called upon to abandon their own nomination and adopt one entirely different merely because another party saw fit to adopt the same. Had the Whigs done the same thing at any time before you came to this conclusion to go the "Whole Hog" for Van Buren, would you not have rejected it and lauded them for so doing. Is not Gen. Harrison now the Presidential candidate of the Antimasons throughout the U. S. with the exception of a small number in Massachusetts? And do you really expect to convince the Antimasons of Vermont that the nomination of Harrison is a "virtuous disbanding or abandoning of party or principle, or will you seriously contend that the election of Harrison and General would be the destruction of the Antimasonic Party while the election of Van Buren and Johnson would preserve it, would not this look a little like political juggling which you not a great while since predicted would run a short race among the descendants of Estlin Allen. Again, should the Jackson party in this State hold a convention and adopt your list of candidates would you not feel bound according to your own principles to abandon those candidates on the ground that it would be "transforming it from an Antimasonic into a Jackson or Van Buren party. Again, you say that whenever the Antimasonic party seek fit to step out of its own ranks for a candidate every individual of the party has an undoubted right to select the candidate which he may prefer. Why then are you not willing to leave them to select such candidate according to their own unbiased judgment and principles instead of exerting all your powers and spending your strength in endeavoring to bring

them over to the support of the other better candidate. Did you not say no longer ago than last fall, that you would not support either White or Van Buren for President.

Again it is well known that one of the favorite and most effectual operations of Van Buren's tactics has been, what he was to denounce seven or eight years ago, "improving the Press" which improvement consists in appointing editors of newspapers to office, supporting papers by government patronage, &c. &c. It is a fact, which I presume no one will attempt to dispute, that more editors of newspapers have been appointed to office under the present administration than in the whole history of the Federal Constitution. Now sir, does not the fact that three out of four of the Antimasonic papers in this state are supporting the cause of Van Buren, while at least four-fifths, and probably nine-tenths of the Antimasons in the state are opposed to him, afford just ground for suspicion that there may be at least a possibility that the same kind of improvement is extending into this state. Once more, Does not the zeal manifested by you in representing Martin Flint, as an advocate and supporter of Van Buren, look a little like political juggling, when it is well known to all the members of the convention, that Gen. F. was equally opposed to the nomination of both Harrison and Van Buren. And when the yeas and nays were taken in the convention on Harrison's nomination, did not Gen. Flint refuse to vote until compelled to do so by you and others of your party, he finally answered with great reluctance, NO.

Is not the hue and cry about aristocracy among the green Mountains of Vermont ridiculous and disgusting to all sensible men; and will you not have the goodness to define a little more specifically, what it is which constitutes the Whigs in this state the aristocrats, and the Van Buren men the real patent Simon Pure, dyed in the wool democrats. And also how long it is since they became such in your estimation. If you should answer these questions pretty candidly, I may put you a few more at some future time.

AN ORIGINAL ANTIMASON.

FROM THE SAME.

The editor of the Free Press is constantly talking about democracy and no man in creation is so little governed by its principles as himself. It has been considered a salutary democratic principle that a majority should govern a minority, but this renowned editor reverses the principle. The Antimasonic party of the state of Vermont met in full convention at Montpelier the other day and decided by an overwhelming majority that they would support Gen. Harrison for President. This convention was called by the regular constituted organs of the party, the Antimasonic state committee, one of whom was Martin Flint himself. After a full deliberation and spirited discussion the convention decided, and the editor and twenty six others bolted from that decision, and went over to the Van Buren party; what was become of the editor's democratic principles? He would not abide the decision made by the party by which he professionally belonged, but set up his own will in opposition to theirs. Is this republicanism? Is this democracy? He yet claims to be an Antimason, and to belong to the Antimasonic party. The fact is, he has seceded from it. He now belongs to one of the most Masonic parties in the country. It is a party which embraces within its control the Grand Lodge of the state of New York and of Vermont. It would be a strange sight to see the editor of the Free Press and the clerk of the county court at Burlington in bed together, but so it is. Now they are shoulder to shoulder contending for the cause of Van Burenism and Masonry. O! tell it not in Gath, lest the daughters of uncircumcised Masonry rejoice.

Florida War.

From the Globe.

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.
FORT KING, FLORIDA, Feb. 22 1836.

General: Agreeably to your directions, I observed the battle ground six or seven miles north of the Outhlaocchoe river, where Major Dade and his Command were destroyed by the Seminole Indians on the 28th of Dec. last, and have the honor to submit the following report:

The force under your command which arrived at this post today from Tampa Bay, encamped on the night of the 19th inst. on the ground occupied by Major Dade on the night of the 27th of December. He and his party were destroyed on the morning of the 28th of December, about four miles in advance of that position. He was advancing towards this post, and was attacked from the north, so that on the 20th inst. we came upon the rear of his battle ground about 9 o'clock in the morning. Our advanced guard had passed the ground without halting, when the General and his staff came upon one of the most appalling scenes that can be imagined. We first saw some broken and scattered boxes; then a cart, the two oxen of which were lying dead, as if they had fallen asleep, their yokes still on them; a little to the right, one or two horses were seen. We then came to a small enclosure, made by felling trees in such a manner as to form a triangular breast-work for defence. Within the triangle, along the north and west faces of it, were about thirty bodies, mostly mere skeletons, although much of the clothing was left upon them. These were lying, almost every one of them, in precisely the position they must have occupied during the fight—their heads next to the logs over which they had delivered their fire, and their bodies stretched with striking regularity parallel to each other. They had evidently been shot dead at their posts, and the Indians had not disturbed them, except by taking the scalps of most of them. Passing this little breast-work we found other bodies along the road, and by the side of the road, generally behind trees which had been resorted to for cover from the enemy's fire. Advancing about two hundred yards further, we found a cluster of bodies in the middle of the road. These were evidently the advanced guard, in the rear of which was the body of Major Dade, and to the right, that of Captain Fraser.

There were all doubtless shot down on the first fire of the Indians, except, perhaps, Captain Fraser, who must, however, have fallen very early in the fight. Those in the road and by the trees, fell during the first attack. It was during a cessation of the fire that the little band still remaining about thirty in number, threw up the triangular breast-work, which from the haste with which it was constructed, was necessarily defective, and could not protect the men in the second attack.

We had with us many of the personal friends of

the officers of Major Dade's command, and it is gratifying to be able to state that every officer was identified by undoubted evidence. They were buried, and the cannon, a six-pounder, that the Indians had thrown into a swamp, was recovered and placed vertically at the head of the grave, where it is to be hoped it will long remain. The bodies of the non-commissioned officers and privates were buried in two graves, and it was found that every man was accounted for. The command was composed of eight officers and one hundred and two non-commissioned officers and privates. The bodies of eight officers and ninety-eight men were interred, four men having escaped; three of whom reached Tampa Bay; the fourth was killed the day after the battle.

It may be proper to observe, that the attack was not made from a hammock, but in a thicket wooded country; the Indians being concealed by palmetto and grass which has since been burned.

The two companies were Captain Fraser's, of the 3d artillery, and Captain Gardner's, of the 2d artillery. The officers were Major Dade, of the 4th infantry, Captains Fraser and Gardner, second Lieutenant Rasinger, brevet second Lieutenant R. Henderson, Mudge and Keats, of the artillery, and Doctor J. S. Gallin.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your obedient servant,

(Signed) E. A. HITCHCOCK,
Captain 1st infantry, Act. Insp'r General.
Major Gen. ESTEVAN P. GAISIN,
Commanding Western Department, Fort King,
Florida.

From the Albany Evening Journal.

Extract of a letter from an officer * in the U. S. Army, to his brother in this city, dated
FORT DRAKE, or "LONG SYKE,"
(E. Florida) Feb. 24 1836.

My dear brother—I wrote you from Tampa that I was about to start on a march with the grand army under General Gaines. We left on the morning of the 23d inst. and have met with no Indians up to this time.

I can truly say that this has been my first taste of what the soldier's life is. Marching on foot at the head of my company, with my canteen and haversack by my side; sleeping on the ground, before a fire in the open air, or bivouaching in a slender hut, living on bread and pork, and now and then a cup of coffee; all this is different from living at Tampa on oysters and venison; although there I would have my clothes on for weeks, and stand prepared for an alarm at any moment.

We took our course for King, 100 miles north from Tampa Bay, expecting continually to meet our savage, treacherous, and blood thirsty enemies. We were 1100 strong, 700 being volunteers of Louisiana and 400 regulars. Seven companies of our regiment are together; I of course met many of my friends. The whole infantry, artillery, and volunteers were named by General Gaines the "Light Brigade," and Col. Twiggs put in immediate command. We took but ten days provision with us, and that on pack horses, not a single baggage wagon accompanying us. On arriving at Fort King, day before yesterday, we found no provisions there; and the seven companies of the 4th were detached to obtain provisions at this post, which is 32 miles north of Fort King. We made a forced march yesterday, and actually reached here in nine hours from Fort King. We shall probably start today to return to Fort King; and I expect we shall start thence in a south westerly direction to a point on the Withlacoochee, where it is said the Indians are actually encamping themselves. Their leader, Powell, a half-breed, is a cunning man.

It was about 10 o'clock on the morning of the 20th inst. that we approached the ground the massacre of Dade's command took place. None do I expect to witness another scene so solemn—so unearthly. Fifty-three days had passed away, and not a human being, white or red, appeared to have touched the remains of these unfortunate troops! Far less of decay had come over their remains than I expected. Every officer was recognized and 94 soldiers discovered. The remains of these eight officers and the men were interred in separate graves, with military honors. Imagination could not picture any thing so impressive—so horrifying. It was a grateful duty we performed to what remained of these our comrades. I despair describing to what we saw, and have to dwell longer on it.

This is Gen. Clinch's plantation, and there are here some 500 troops. Gen. Scott with 2000 troops is expected here daily from St. Augustine. Some 5000 in all will be collected in Florida. I hope and trust the campaign will be ended soon. The rainy and sickly season comes on in June. If the enemy will show fight we can soon exterminate them; but if they retreat to the "ever glades" and swamps of Southern Florida, we shall have to starve them out, which will be a long and wearisome task.

* The officer here alluded to is presumed to be Mr. Benjamin Auld, a native of this town, and son of Mr. William Auld. Mr. A. was educated at the Military Academy at West Point and is a very promising young man—said his relatives and friends here could not but entertain an intense anxiety with respect to his safety in this savage warfare.

It will be seen by later news that the above is another column from this portion of the army under Gen. Gaines, to which Mr. Auld is attached, that he, with the rest of the army are in somewhat of a perilous situation.

The Pensacola Gazette publishes the decision of the Court Martial held upon Col. Parish the officer who shot Lieut. Ward, of the Volunteers. The Court unanimously agreed that Col. P. was fully justified in shooting Lieut. Ward, the latter having defied and resisted the orders of his superior officer. It appears that Ward was directed to be put under arrest, but no one would execute the order. He used offensive language to Col. Parish, and armed with three pistols, one of them cocked and presented, stood out in open defiance, declaring he would shoot any man who approached him. When Col. P. advanced, the Lieut. was in the act of firing, but was shot before he could execute that intention.

St. Augustine, (E. F.) Feb. 25. The Indians are now coming over to the whites in small parties of ten or twelve at a time. Those friendly Indians who, a few weeks since, came over to act as guides, have confessed that the only reason for so doing was to escape punishment, which they saw was coming upon them. The rumor that Powell is dead is gaining ground every day. The whole force now in Florida may be rated at about 3,000 men, volunteers and all.

Most of the houses here are of stone, and many of them in ruins.—The city once contained a population of more than 5000 which is now reduced to less than 2500.—A considerable majority are Spaniards, Minorcans, and negroes. Slaves are numerous. There are several pretty good buildings, amongst which are the Catholic, Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches, besides many very good dwellings houses. The large house, formerly used for a nunnery, and at present for a garrison, presents quite an imposing appearance. The monument in the public square, 30 or 40 feet in height, commemorates the Spanish Constitution, is said to be the only one not destroyed. The Stone Fort, commenced, no one seems to know when, and finished in the year 1716, is a magnificent work, and cost the Spanish Government three millions of dollars.

The climate was very warm and pleasant up to the 26th ult. Only three slight frosts to that date. The 27th and 30th were cooler, and ice was seen one morning nearly as thick as window glass. It is now warm again, with thunder showers. The Thermometer has been as high as 81 in the coolest situation, and 110 in the warmest, within a few weeks. The gardens are green with vegetables. To judge from the appearance of vegetation, we should think it about the first of July. Some winters have passed off without any frost. Last winter was an extraordinary exception. A frost came in the early part of February, which destroyed every Orange grove in all this part of Florida. Entire groves of dead trees are still standing both in this city and vicinity, which look as if killed by fire. These groves were very profitable. Less than an acre produced oranges to the amount of \$1200 a year with only the labor of gathering. The loss is variously estimated, from 500,000 to a million of dollars. The Fig trees escaped with little injury. The Lemon grows well here, but has not been extensively cultivated. Sugar cane and Cotton, and the sweet Potatoe, are all raised in considerable quantities.—New York Jour. of Com.

ARKANSAS TERRITORY,
Near Fort Gibson, February 2, 1836.

Our detachment of Dragoons arrived here on the 13th ult. after a passage of 43 days from New York via New Orleans. I found this post better in some respects than I expected, although our quarters are rough. Our living is good, and we are treated well. Independent of the Government ration, which is large, we are supplied with the greatest quantities of game of all descriptions by the Indians, who visit us in swarms every day. To give you an idea of the cheapness of game in this country, I will merely state that a whole Deer can be purchased, cleaned, for 75 cents! Wild Turkeys at 15 or 20 cents a piece, and the Hens are much in plumage and size like your Pheasants, with the exception of the three horned feathers on either side of the head. The Indians shoot them with a single ball, and rarely, if ever touch the body.

We are visited daily by the different tribes of Indians that surround us, who come into camp to trade with the soldiers. The finest looking Indians are the Osages; a splendid war like looking set of fellows. They come down from their village, 240 miles from this, once or twice a month, to trade off Buffalo skins. Yesterday traded an old blanket for a first rate dressed skin. The principal chief of the Osage nation (Tally) visited us a few days since; a more noble looking man I never saw,—he stands six feet 6 inches in height, and is perfectly erect, with the countenance of a hero. The Dragoons from this post saw him last summer, shoot an arrow entirely through a Buffalo. The Osages are the finest Buffalo hunters on the Prairie.

Chili McIntosh, the Creek Chief, visits us almost every week, he is the most christian-like looking Indian I have ever seen—dresses like a citizen, and speaks English very well.

It is supposed we shall go on our regular tramp early next May, to visit the Pawnees and Camanches, about 400 miles from this. The Camanches have violated the treaty made last year.

Our quarters are about three fourths of a mile from Fort Gibson, on the borders of a beautiful Prairie, 10 miles in extent. The land on which Fort Gibson and the Dragoons are situated is a reserve of 5 or 6 miles square, in the Cherokee nation.—Cor. Ball, Pat.

So, after all, there has been an awful earthquake in China, though it has not swallowed up the city of Peking. The following more rational account of it is from a Valparaiso newspaper, dated in the middle of November, received by a late arrival at Boston:

"The Peking Gazette contains the details of the most terrible earthquake within the memory of man. The shocks continued at intervals for twenty one days. It is estimated that in the four provinces one hundred thousand houses were destroyed. The fields were covered with dead bodies, and no one to bury them, and the survivors were obliged to live in the open air exposed to the inclemency of the weather. At Pong T chin the earth opened, and a stream of black water burst forth, which carried away produce, men, animals, houses, and whatever it met within its course."

Foreign Intelligence.

LATER FROM ENGLAND.

London papers to the 4th February have been received at New-York, brought by the packet ship North America, which vessel was boarded at sea on Monday, by the crew boat of the Courier & Enquirer.

Parliament was opened on the 4th, and the King delivered his Speech in person. The following extracts embrace all that relates to foreign affairs.

"My Lords and Gentlemen: It is with great satisfaction that I again meet the great Council of the nation assembled in Parliament. I am ever anxious to avail myself of your advice and assistance, and I rejoice that the present state of public affairs, both at home and abroad, is such as to permit you to proceed without delay or interruption, to the calm examination of those measures which will be submitted to your consideration.

I continue to receive from my Allies and generally from all Foreign Powers, assurances of their unaltered desire to cultivate with me those friendly relations which it is equally my wish to maintain with them; and the intimate union which happily subsists between this country and France, is a pledge to Europe for the continuance of the general peace.

Desirous on all occasions to use my friendly endeavors to remove causes of disagreement between others, I have offered my mediation in order to compose the difference which has arisen between France and the United States. This offer has been accepted by the King of the French. The answer of the President of the United States has not yet been received; but I entertain a confident hope that a misunderstanding between two nations so enlightened and high minded, will be settled in a manner satisfactory to the feelings, and consistent with the honor of both.

I have still to lament the continuance of the civil contest in the Northern Provinces of Spain.—The measures which I have taken, and the engagement into which I have entered, sufficiently prove my deep anxiety for its termination; and the prudent and vigorous conduct of the present Government of Spain inspires me with the hope, that the authority of the Queen will soon be established in every part of her dominions, and that the Spanish nation, so long connected by friendship with Great Britain, will again enjoy the blessing of internal tranquility, and union.

"I have given directions that there be laid before you the treaty which I have concluded with the Queen of Spain, for the suppression of the slave trade."

The Spanish Cortes has been unexpectedly dissolved by the Queen. It appears the new Minister, Mendizabal, finding himself in a minority on an important question, determined on taking the sense of the nation, by recurring to a new election.—Bost. Dai. Adv.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE, VERSUS RUSSIA.

Judging from the tone of our late London and Paris papers, the disposition is becoming stronger on the part of England and France to take exception at the conduct of Russia.—The recent speech of the Emperor Nicholas in relation to the Poles, in the course of which he made use of much insulting language towards France, has not been forgotten by Louis Philippe and his Ministers, and could the liberal powers of Europe only bring their courage to the sticking point, they would at once take bold and decided ground towards the Autocrat.—A conflict with Russia, would greatly tend to strengthen Louis Philippe in the popular affections of France, and especially with the Republicans of that country.

"The vague allusion which Louis Philippe makes to the state of his relations with the 'European Powers,' is pregnant with that dissatisfaction which he feels against the Autocrat of the North. The necessity, therefore, of marking that dissatisfaction by an emphatic declaration in favor of Isabella II. was not avoided. It is as full as we could have wished it to be, and we rejoice the more in finding it so decisive, as more than one occasion occurred during the last twelve months when we could not help entertaining doubts to which this declaration has put an end. The reference, also, to the measures lately taken for causing greater vigilance to be observed on the Pyrenean frontiers is in every respect satisfactory."—Philadelphia Enquirer.

24th Congress—1st Session.

IN SENATE—WEDNESDAY, March 10. Mr. HUBARD offered the following resolutions, which were agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Pensions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of restoring all those now living to the pension list, under the act of March 18, 1818, who were stricken from said list in pursuance of the act of May 1, 1820; and in case of said persons have obtained annuities under the act of June 7, 1832, that said committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the payment to such persons of the pension to which they would have been entitled if they had not been stricken from said pension list, after deducting the amount which they have received by virtue of the act of June 7, 1832.

Resolved, That said committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law, in case any person who were stricken from the pension list in pursuance of the act of May 1, 1820, here, since that period, died, for the payment to their heirs of all arrears due to which they would have been entitled had said person not been stricken from said list.

In the Senate, Thursday the 10th the President transmitted a report from the Department of State with the proceedings of a convention held at Little Rock, Arkansas, for the purpose of framing a State Government, for the Arkansas Territory, which on motion of Mr. Buchanan, it was voted to refer to a select committee to be raised for the purpose of considering the subject, and the balloting for the Committee was postponed till Friday.

In the House, the bills making further appropriations for the suppression of Indian hostilities, and to provide for the payment of volunteer corps and militia in the service of the U. S. State, were reported with amendments, and ordered to a third reading.

The message of the President relative to the Arkansas Territory was referred to the Committee on Territories.